

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:WPCKELLY:MJK

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----- 021136

R 051543Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

XMT AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145145

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO NATO LISBON
LOURENCO MARQUES FROM LUANDA 02 JUL 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI NATO PFOR AO PO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PORTUGUESE USE OF NATO ARMS IN AFRICA

DEPT PASS TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

REF: STATE 141131

1. IN DISCUSSING SOARES' STATEMENT WITH CONGEN RECENTLY, LOCAL
FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN SAID IT "COMMON KNOWLEDGE" U.S. HAD BEEN
SUPPLYING ARMS TO PORTUGAL. PRESSED TO SUBSTANTIATE CLAIM,
HE ADMITTED "KNOWING" ONLY THAT PORTUGUESE RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED
SHIPMENT OF ROCKETS IN CABINDA FOR USE AIR-TO-SURAFCE. (COMMENT.
AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THOSE ROCKETS WERE FRENCH. THEY ARRIVED IN
CLEARLY MARKED CASES, AND AS IN PAST NO EFFORT MADE TO
DISGUISE THEM.)

2. THIS IS REPORTED MERELY TO ILLUSTRATE PERSISTENT PROBLEM
WHICH WILL NOT YIELD TO REASON OR FACTS. EVENTUALLY, OUR CRITICS
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WHEN PRESSED TAKE REFUGE IN ALLEGATION AZORES AGREEMENTS LOGICALLY

EXPECTED TO PRODUCE FLOOD OF UNDER-THE-TABLE ARMS SHIPMENTS.
SINCE THIS "LOGICAL," THEREFORE IT MUST BE "TRUE." BRIGGS
UNQUOTE SISCO

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